

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the method comprising:
 - scanning an e-mail for viruses before the e-mail is sent from the computer;
 - attaching a certificate identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning; and
 - sending the e-mail with the certificate from the computer to a recipient computer;
 - wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site, the web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of a virus scanner utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information on obtaining digital signature verification software that can be utilized for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found;
 - wherein the computer is a network server;
 - wherein attaching the certificate comprises attaching the certificate at the server;
 - wherein the virus scanner is incorporated within a mail application that is utilized in creating the e-mail;
 - wherein the email received at the recipient computer displays the certificate and only displays the digital signature if the digital signature verification software is installed on the recipient computer.

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2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein scanning the e-mail for viruses comprising scanning attachments contained within the e-mail.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein scanning the e-mail comprises automatically scanning the e-mail after a user sends the e-mail.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the computer is connected to the Internet.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the e-mail at [a]the recipient computer.

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10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising reading the digital signature with [a]the digital signature verification application at the recipient computer and verifying that the e-mail has not been tampered with.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[1] wherein scanning the e-mail for viruses comprises scanning the e-mail for viruses at the server.

14. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the system comprising:
an anti-virus application operable to scan e-mails;
a certification application operable to add a certificate to the e-mail identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning; and

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a storage medium configured to store the anti-virus database for use by the anti-virus application;

wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site, the web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of the anti-virus application utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information on obtaining digital signature verification software that can be utilized for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found;

wherein the computer is a network server;

wherein adding the certificate comprises adding the certificate at the server;

wherein the anti-virus application is incorporated within a mail application that is utilized in creating the e-mail;

wherein the email received at the recipient computer displays the certificate and only displays the digital signature if the digital signature verification software is installed on the recipient computer.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 further comprising a processor operable to send the e-mail to a recipient computer.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the computer sending the e-mail and the recipient computer are servers located within a computer network.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A computer product for certifying that e-mail sent from a computer is free from viruses identified by an anti-virus database, the product comprising:

computer code that scans an e-mail for viruses before the e-mail is sent from the computer;

computer code that attaches a certificate identifying the e-mail as being scanned for viruses if no viruses are found during scanning;

computer code that sends the e-mail with the certificate from the computer to a recipient computer; and

a computer readable medium that stores said computer codes;

wherein the certificate includes a link to a web site, the web site describing the virus scanning performed on the e-mail by including a type and a version of a virus scanner utilized in scanning the e-mail for viruses, in addition to information on obtaining digital signature verification software that can be utilized for reading a digital signature added to the e-mail if no viruses are found;

wherein the computer is a network server;

wherein attaching the certificate comprises attaching the certificate at the server;

wherein the virus scanner is incorporated within a mail application that is utilized in creating the e-mail;

wherein the email received at the recipient computer displays the certificate and only displays the digital signature if the digital signature verification software is installed on the recipient computer.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer product of claim 27 wherein the computer readable medium is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, floppy disk, tape, flash memory, system memory, and hard drive.

29. (Original) The computer product of claim 27 further comprising computer code that cleans infected data.

30. - 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the certificate includes a company logo.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the certificate includes an icon.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the e-mail and at least one attachment is scanned for viruses.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the certificate is a water marked seal.

47. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital signature verification software is incorporated within the mail application for reading digital signatures included in received e-mails.

48. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital signature verification software is incorporated within the virus scanner for reading digital signatures included in received e-mails.

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49. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the e-mail received at the recipient computer only displays the digital signature if the digital signature verification software is installed on the recipient computer and if the digital signature verification software verifies the digital signature.